

Appl. No. 09/348,891
Response Dated May 23, 2007
Reply to Office Action dated February 23, 2007

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6 and 7 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 4, 6 and 7 are independent.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,700,989 to Itoh et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Itoh").

As described in the Specification of the present application as filed, a "conventional MPEG decoder includes a large input buffer for converting the nearly constant bitrate of the MPEG bitstream." Specification at page 3, lines 3-4. With the presently claimed invention, "[b]y interchanging the order of inverse transform and accumulation, the variable-length decoding can be carried out at the input bitrate [with the] variable-length decoder [being] considerably simplified and the large input buffer can be dispensed with." Specification at page 3, lines 6-9. Thus, the claimed invention beneficially reverses the typical order employed during watermark detection (transforming and then accumulating) with the claimed order of accumulating, and then transforming.

Applicants submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by Itoh at least because claim 1 recites "accumulating spatially corresponding coefficients of at least one picture of one frame of the video signal, wherein a picture is an array of pixels having the same size as the watermark," and "inverse transforming said accumulated coefficients into an accumulated plurality of pictures."

Itoh does not teach or suggest "accumulating spatially corresponding coefficients,"

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and then "inverse transforming said accumulated coefficients." Itoh merely describes a conventional method of inverse transforming a bitstream, where, as pointed out in the office Action, "compressed data are expanded by an MPEG decoder 56." Itoh at column 29, lines 55-56. Thus, Itoh does not teach or suggest "accumulating spatially corresponding coefficients of at least one picture of one frame of the video signal, wherein a picture is an array of pixels having the same size as the watermark," and "inverse transforming said accumulated coefficients into an accumulated plurality of pictures."

In addition, applicants submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by Itoh at least because claim 1 recites "accumulating spatially corresponding coefficients of at least one picture of one frame of the video signal, wherein a picture is an array of pixels having the same size as the watermark." Itoh does not teach or suggest accumulating spatially corresponding coefficients of at least one picture of one frame of the video signal, as recited in claim 1.

In the Office Action, claim 1 is rejected because Itoh teaches decoding MPEG data, which requires the accumulation of coefficients between two or more frames, i.e., rebuilding an image using I, P and B frames. In contrast to the teachings of Itoh, claim 1 recites accumulating spatially corresponding coefficients of at least one picture of one frame of the video signal. Itoh does not teach or suggest accumulating coefficients of the same frame, as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Itoh does not teach every element of claim 1 and is therefore not anticipated by Itoh for at least this reason. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

Applicants submit that claim 7 is also not anticipated by Itoh because claim 7

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recites, "accumulating spatially corresponding coefficients of at least one picture, wherein the accumulated coefficients comprise less data than one frame of the video signal." Nowhere does Itoh teach or suggest accumulating coefficients and having as a result less data than one frame of the video signal. Instead, Itoh teaches decoding P and B frames, which results in more data as a result of accumulation with an I frame. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claim 7 is not anticipated by Itoh for at least this reason, and earnestly request entrance and allowance of this claim.

Independent claims 4 and 6 recite features similar to claim 1, and are therefore not anticipated by Itoh for at least the reason discussed above with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claims 4 and 6 are in condition for allowance and request that the examiner withdraw those rejections.

Claims 2 and 3 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are therefore not anticipated by Itoh for at least the reason discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claims 2 and 3 are in condition for allowance and request that the examiner withdraw those rejections.

Moreover, applicants submit that claim 2 is patentable over Itoh for additional reasons. For example, claim 2 recites a method wherein "accumulating coefficients is applied to the coefficients representing said residual pictures irrespective of coefficients representing the prediction picture." Applicants submit that Itoh does not describe "accumulating coefficients is applied to the coefficients representing said residual pictures irrespective of coefficients

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representing the prediction picture." Indeed, the portion of Itoh cited in the Office Action as being pertinent merely describes a method wherein "compressed data are expanded by an MPEG decoder 56." Itoh at column 29, lines 55-56.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that for this additional reason, claim 2 is in condition for allowance and request that the examiner withdraw that rejection.

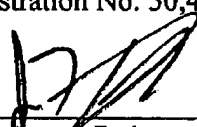
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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the currently-pending claims are in condition for allowance and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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